FLU. By your patience, ancient Pistol. Fortune
Is painted plind, with a muffler before her eyes, to
signify to you that fortune is plind[8]: And she is

• bred in sacred brest

[e] Of him that rules the *restlesse-roiling* side." STEEVENS.

For this idea our author seems indebted to The Spanish Tragedy :

** Fortune is *blind,* -
" Whose foot is *standing* on a *rolling stone.*[1]

KITSON.

s Fortune is painted PLIND, with a MUFFLER before her eyes,, to signify to you that fortune is plind :] Here the fool of a player was for making a joke, as Hamlet says, *not set down for him, and showing a most pitiful ambition* to be witty. For Fluellen, though he speaks with his country accent, yet is all the way represented as a man of good plain sense. Therefore, as it appears he knew the meaning of the term *plind,* by his use of it, he could never have said that " Fortune was painted plind, to signify she was plind." He might as well have said afterwards, " that she was painted *inconstant* to signify she was *inconstant.*" But there he speaks sense; and so, unquestionably, he did here. We should therefore strike out the *first plind,* and read :

" Fortune is painted with a muffler," &c.

WARBURTON.

The old reading is the true one. *Fortune the goddess* is represented blind, to show *that fortune, or the chance of life,* is without discernment. STEEVENS.

The picture of *Fortune* is taken from the old history of *Fortunatus* : where she is described to be a fair woman, *miifiled over the eves.* FARMER*

A *muffler* appears to have been a *fold of linen* which partially covered a woman's face. So, in Monsieur Thomas, 1639:

" On with my *muffler.*"

See The Merry Wives of Windsor, vol. viii. p. 157, n. 5.

STEEVENS.

Minsheu, in his Dictionary, 1617, explains " a woman's *miiffler,*" by the French word *cachenez,* which Cotgrave defines " a kind of mask for the face: " yet, I believe, it was made of linen, and that Minsheu only means to *compare* it to a mask, because they both might conceal part of the face. It was, I believe, a kind of hood, of the same form as the riding-hood now sometimes worn by men, that covered the shoulders, and a great part of

the face. This agrees with the only other passage in which the word occurs in these plays: " — I spy a great beard under her *muffler*" *Merry Wives of Windsor*. See also the verses cited from the Cobler's prophecy, vol. iv. p. 273 :